



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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December 5, 2006

**GUILTY PLEA ENTERED IN SCANNING DEVICE STRAW PURCHASE CASE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in San Antonio this afternoon, 44-year-old Seyed Abolghassen Rohani Eftekhari, a Canadian citizen born in Iran, pled guilty to attempting to purchase a "guided wave" scanning device with the intent of providing the unit to a third party from Iran without an Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) license.

Appearing before United States Magistrate Judge Nancy Stein Nowak, Eftekhari pleaded guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the Iranian Transaction Regulations. As a result, Eftekhari faces up to five years in federal prison and a maximum \$ 250,000 fine. He remains in federal custody pending sentencing scheduled for March 15, 2006, before United States District Judge Orlando Garcia.

On September 18, 2006, Eftekhari was arrested in San Antonio while attempting to purchase a Magnetostrictive Sensor from the Southwest Research Institute for \$72,000.

This investigation began when SRI officials contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation after they had received a "suspicious pricing inquiry" via the Internet for the device. FBI then notified United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement who traditionally has main enforcement responsibility for such violations.

Further investigation revealed that subsequent email correspondence by Eftekhari to SRI was copied to representatives with an Iranian company, Razi Metallurgical Institute. In his plea, Eftekhari admitted that the money for the purchase of a Magnetostrictive Sensor came from Razi and that the device "might" end up in Iran.

In general, unless licensed by the Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), goods, technology (including technical data or other information subject to Export Administration Regulations), or services may not be exported, re-exported, sold or supplied, directly or indirectly, from the United States or by a U.S. person, wherever located, to Iran or the Government of Iran. The ban on providing services includes any brokering function from the United States or by U.S. persons, wherever located. In general, a person may not export from the U.S. any goods, technology or services, if that person knows or has reason to know such items are intended specifically for supply, transshipment or re-exportation to Iran.

Assistant United States Attorney Mark Roomberg is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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